

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 17, 19, 30, 32, 41 and 43 were pending and rejected all claims. Claims 17, 19, 30, 32, 41 and 43 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 17, 19, 30, 32, 41 and 43 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On January 25, 2005 a personal Interview was conducted with the Examiner and the issues discussed below were discussed.

On page 3 of the Action the Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. section 112, paragraph 1 for failure to provide a written description. Essentially the Examiner alleges that two phrases in different ones of the claims are not supported by the application. With respect to the first phrase, the Examiner is requested to review the drawings of the application and application page 50, line 22-page 51, line 4. With respect to the second phrase, the Examiner is requested to review the drawings of the application and application page 53, lines 16-25. It is submitted that the application provides a supporting written description. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. section 112 paragraph 2 as indefinite. The claims have been amended pursuant to a recommendation made by the Examiner in the Interview. If additional concerns with the claims arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone to resolve the same. Suggestions by the Examiner are also welcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19, 32 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Wang. Page 5 of the Office Action rejects claims 17, 30 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Wang and Abe.

As discussed with the Examiner, Wang deletes lines (or units) that are too tall or too short. In particular, Wang deletes lines that are less than three pixels high and deletes lines that have a height greater than a threshold (see Wang, col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 10).

In contrast to Wang, as discussed with the Examiner, the present invention of claims 19, 32 and 43 deletes a straight line pattern composed of segments ("segment patterns"). In particular, the straight line pattern is deleted when the sizes of "all" of the segments "are greater than a threshold (see claims 19, 32 and 43).

There is no discussion or suggestion in the prior art concerning this feature. As a result, it is submitted that the invention of the independent claims 19, 32 and 43 distinguishes over the

prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

As discussed with the Examiner, Abe is directed to a system that detects lines, blocks and tables and deletes them (see Abe figure 1C, col. 13, lines 54-63, col. 2, lines 61-64, col. 3, lines 1-5, col. 4, lines 65 - col. 5, line 2 & col. 9, line 67 - col. 10, line 3). That is, Abe erases all lines.

In contrast to Wang and Abe, as discussed with the Examiner, the present invention of claims 17, 30 and 41 deletes a "shorter" of two straight line patterns. In particular, the shorter straight line pattern is deleted when the two patterns "overlap" and when a "ratio" of the "overlapping portion" to the "length" of the shorter pattern is "greater than a threshold" (see claims 17, 30 and 41).

There is no discussion or suggestion in the prior art concerning this feature. As a result, it is submitted that the invention of the independent claims 17, 30 and 41 distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the invention of the independent claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In as much as the amendments to the claims are in conformance to the Examiners recommendation, no new issues are raised and entry and consideration is requested.

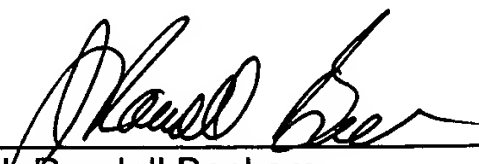
It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/3/5

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